

# *Improving Utah's Water Quality*

## *San Pitch River Watershed*



### **MAJOR WATERBODIES**

- San Pitch River
- Gunnison Reservoir
- Nine Mile Reservoir

### **MAJOR CITIES**

- Manti
- Ephraim
- Mt. Pleasant

### **MAJOR LAND USES**

- Agriculture
- Urban

### **LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES**

- Salinity
- Temperature
- Phosphorus
- Bank Erosion

### **LOCAL CONTACT:**

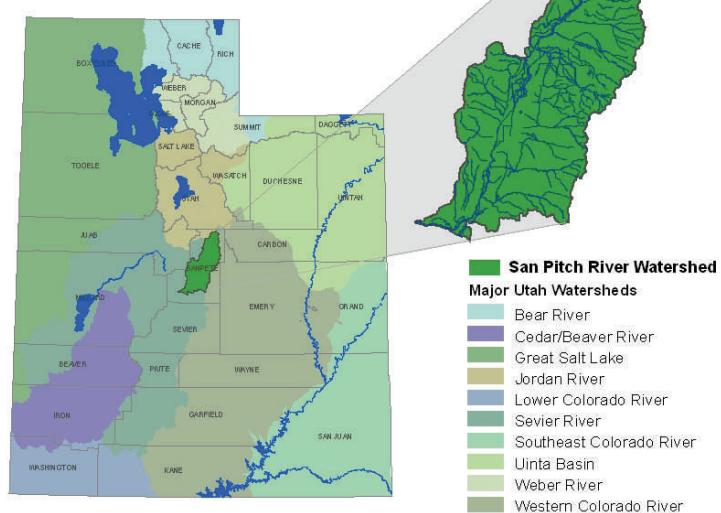
Sanpete Conservation District  
Watershed Coordinator  
50 S. Main  
Manti, UT 84642  
(435) 835-4111

### **Watershed Description:**

The San Pitch River Watershed located in the center of the state is almost entirely within Sanpete County. The San Pitch River runs from Milburn and flows into Gunnison Reservoir where it eventually drains into the Sevier River. The watershed is home to nearly 800 farms and the principal crops are alfalfa, small grains, and corn for silage. Livestock and poultry are the mainstays of Sanpete County agriculture where turkey production ranks in the top four counties in the nation. Water quality is important to both agriculture and urban users, and was the reason the San Pitch Watershed Stewardship Group was formed in 1999. Under its leadership, the Sanpete Conservation District and other natural resource partners including local landowners are implementing projects to improve Utah's water quality. Projects are based on the "San Pitch River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan" completed in January 2006.



Photo courtesy of Utah Geological Survey



# San Pitch Water Quality Improvement

## Project Description:

The San Pitch River water quality improvement project was launched in the summer of 2004 with the help of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and local landowners. To date, 2 miles of stream have been restored with 1.5 miles projected to be completed in the spring of 2008. The project is funded to restore 4,000 more feet of stream bank, which will be completed by 2009. This project focuses on restoring stream meanders, re-contouring stream banks, installing in-stream structures and planting riparian vegetation to improve water quality by filtering out pollutants, and improving wildlife habitat. Along with stream restoration, landowners have voluntarily installed conservation practices that have improved the San Pitch River and the overall health of the watershed. These have included relocating animal feeding operations, implementing sprinkler irrigation systems, grazing management, riparian fencing, and pasture planting, all which help

control erosion and reduce runoff of sediment and nutrients into the San Pitch River.



## Partners

Sanpete County  
Sanpete Conservation District  
Local landowners  
Local irrigation companies  
Utah Division of Water Quality  
Utah Division of Water Resources  
Utah State University Extension  
Utah Association of Conservation Districts  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Environmental Protection Agency

## Related Projects

Irrigation systems  
Range and pasture planting  
Soil testing and training  
Farm management software  
4th grade watershed education day  
9th grade watershed education day  
Water quality monitoring education program  
Stream restoration  
Aquifer classification  
Source water protection plans

## Funding

Total (through 2008) \$3.9 million

For funding opportunities in the San Pitch Watershed, contact the San Pete Conservation District.

To learn how you can participate or lend your support to Utah community water quality projects, please contact your local conservation district or county agent.

Produced by USU Water Quality Extension, Utah Watershed Coordinating Council, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, and Utah Division of Water Quality.